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IC-74-2062

25 September 1974

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MEMORANDUM FOR:

THROUGH

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Col. Taylor

SUBJECT : Product Review of Scientific and Technical Periodicals

1. We propose that the intelligence community's scientific and technical periodicals be reviewed to assess their adequacy, timeliness, and responsiveness to consumers' needs.

2. While the argument can be made that many scientific and technical intelligence problems are issues in their own right, the historical consumers of scientific intelligence have been the defense establishment and the economic community. In new policy initiatives taken by the United States and other nations, science and technology have become increasingly important ingredients in foreign relations. Thus, those elements in the US Government concerned with foreign policy initiatives also have become consumers for technical intelligence analysis.

3. A project to review scientific and technical publications can be initiated rather simply. Steps will be eliminated by responses to the IC Staff memorandum on inventory of intelligence periodicals. With the official periodical distribution lists, perceived or long established consumers will be already identified and steps to interview these intelligence consumers can be initiated. Throughout this interviewing procedure, we can explore various questions. Does the intelligence product meet current consumer needs? What scientific issues would the consumer like to see addressed? Are the articles timely? After the consumers are interviewed, a discussion with the principles at the various technical production offices should be revealing. We can assess, for example, if the consumer is accurately perceived or if the products are only reflections of parochial interests.

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4. This project seems to fit well into the PRD charter and would indeed involve a review of a "family of products." Undoubtedly, such an investigation would cause considerable consternation in the technical production offices: since each is quite sure they are meeting consumer needs. Similarly, such a review might cause the political, military, and economic production offices to react in the same manner.

5. We would need to evaluate technical intelligence from two perspectives -- intelligence products directed for defense consumption and technical analysis undertaken for political and economic consumers. It is envisioned that [] [] would focus on products directed to the defense community; [] would evaluate S&T intelligence products published primarily for the economic and political consumer. The foregoing is the broad brush, however, we would like to discuss the project in more detail with you, before we prepare a more detailed outline.

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